



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/733
16 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 154

UNITED NATIONS INTERIM OFFICES

Report of the Second Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "United Nations interim offices" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.
2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 26-29th, 46th and 48th meetings, on 9 to 11 November and 9 and 13 December 1993. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.26-29, 46 and 48). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).
3. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations interim offices (A/48/146/Add.1);
 - (b) Statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development before the Second Committee on 9 November 1993 (A/48/585).
4. At the 26th meeting, on 9 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/48/SR.26).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70

5. At the 46th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development: field offices of the United Nations development system" (A/C.2/48/L.70) (see also the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 94, Operational activities for development (A/48/720, para. 8).

6. At the 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ryszard Rysinski (Poland), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

7. The Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/48/L.85).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.70 without a vote (see para. 11 below).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Armenia, the Russian Federation and Finland (see A/C.2/48/SR.48).

B. Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations interim offices

10. At its 48th meeting, on 13 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations interim offices (A/48/146/Add.1) (see para. 12 below).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Operational activities for development: field offices of the United Nations development system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 34/213 of 19 December 1979, 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and 47/199 of 22 December 1992,

Having considered the statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development before the Second Committee on 9 November 1993, 1/

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristic of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism,

Reaffirming also the importance of a more effective and coherent coordinated approach by the United Nations system to the needs of recipient countries, particularly at the field level,

Reaffirming further that the mandates of the United Nations separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities,

Reaffirming that assistance should be based on an agreed division of responsibility among the funding organizations, under the coordination of the Government concerned, in order to integrate their response into the development needs of recipient countries,

1. Reaffirms the principle that the assistance provided by the United Nations system should be in conformity with the national objectives and priorities of the recipient countries, that the coordination of various assistance inputs at the national level is the prerogative of the Government concerned and that the overall responsibility for, and coordination of, operational activities for development of the United Nations system carried out at the country level is entrusted to the resident coordinator;

2. Authorizes the establishment of field offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Eritrea, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, and decides that those offices shall be field offices of the United Nations development system;

3. Reaffirms that the field offices of the United Nations development system at the country level shall be coordinated by resident coordinators and shall comply fully with the provisions laid down by the General Assembly relating to the organizational structure, mandates and functions of the offices of the United Nations development system and to the role of the resident coordinator, in particular, those contained in its resolutions 34/213, 46/182 and 47/199;

4. Stresses that all field offices should comply fully with the provisions of its resolution 47/199 relating to the role and functions of the resident coordinator, in particular paragraphs 38 and 39, and reaffirms that the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme shall normally be designated as the resident coordinator and that, in accordance with resolution 46/182, the resident coordinator shall normally coordinate the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system at the country level;

5. Reaffirms that field office activities related to public information, where in place, should follow the relevant provisions of the General Assembly, in particular its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993;

6. Also reaffirms the need to increase the number of common premises, in cooperation with host Governments, in a way that increases efficiency through, inter alia, consolidation of administrative infrastructures of the organizations concerned, but does not increase the costs for the United Nations system or for developing countries;

7. Further reaffirms that all field offices should operate on a sound financial basis;

8. Reaffirms that all field offices are to be funded through voluntary contributions, including those from the host country, and that the United Nations regular budget is a financial source for mandated activities currently related to public information;

9. Decides to review the situation of all field offices as part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system, through the procedures established for this purpose in its resolution 47/199;

10. Stresses that field offices in any new recipient country shall be based on the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions, including those contained in the present resolution.

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12. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations interim offices

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations interim offices. 2/
